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Forty-sixth session
Item 31 of the preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

Letter dated 14 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of the statement on El Salvador and the Mexico Agreements which was issued on 13 May 1991 by the European Community and its 12 member States (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 31 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jean FEYDER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement on El Salvador and the Mexico Agreements

The European Community and its member States are most encouraged by the Agreements signed in Mexico on 27 April 1991 between the Salvadorean Government and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). These Agreements mark an important stage in the peace process begun in Geneva in April 1990.

They welcome the progress which has been achieved by the two sides as a result of their courageous and constructive approach. They also pay tribute to the tireless efforts of Mr. Alvaro de Soto, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to bring about national reconciliation.

In expressing the hope that a decisive step in the peace processes has been made in El Salvador, the Community and its member States call upon the two sides to pursue and bring to a conclusion their negotiations in the same spirit of dialogue, peace-making and flexibility. They also hope that this same spirit will be maintained in the deliberations which are being carried forth by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador.

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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/46/50.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The monitoring of programme implementation is part of the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle established in the United Nations by the end of the 1970s. The Regulation and associated rules governing the various aspects of this cycle were adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982 and then issued in 1987 as a Bulletin of the Secretary-General. 1/ Article V, entitled "Monitoring of programme implementation", include three regulations, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, and two rules, 105.1 and 105.2. Regulation 5.1 states that the Secretary-General shall monitor the delivery of outputs scheduled in the approved programme budget through a central unit in the Secretariat. Regulation 5.2 stipulates that an entire subprogramme shall not be reformulated nor a new programme introduced in the programme budget without the prior approval of an intergovernmental body and the General Assembly. Regulation 5.3 indicates that the biennial programme performance report shall be presented to Member States by the end of the first quarter following the completion of the biennial budget.

2. To date, four programme performance reports have been presented to the General Assembly, which has regularly called for improvements in these reports. Most recently, in his report on programme performance for the biennium 1988-1989, the Secretary-General referred to a number of methodological issues that needed to be addressed to improve the monitoring and reporting system (A/45/218 and Add.1). The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirtieth session, concurred with this analysis and stressed the need for the following changes in the approach to the monitoring of programme implementation:

(a) A comprehensive monitoring of all activities of the Organization, and not only of measurable outputs as currently defined;

(b) A more satisfactory categorization of outputs, taking into account their diversity and their very different weights both in terms of resources used and relevance to Member States;

(c) A distinction between activities and outputs financed from the regular budget and activities and outputs, including operational projects, financed from extrabudgetary resources;

(d) A reassessment of the criteria used in the monitoring exercise, notably measurement of performance and reformulation, postponement, termination and addition of outputs or activities;

(e) Programme performance reports should include data on the use of resources during the biennium.

3. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the same report of the Secretary-General and stated that, in view of the limitations of the current approach, the Committee "questions the

usefulness of the present report to Member States and believes that issuances of further programme performance reports should be suspended pending a resolution of the underlying methodological difficulties" (see A/45/617, para. 23).

4. By section II of resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General and of the observations of the Advisory Committee, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, and requested the Secretary-General "to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations".

5. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request. While not proposing fundamental changes, it outlines an approach which could be adopted for the monitoring and reporting of the programme implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

II. ELEMENTS FOR CHANGES IN THE PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE REPORT

6. The first purpose of the monitoring exercise is to report to Member States on the degree of implementation of the activities indicated in the programme budget of the Organization. These activities are diverse. They include "outputs" as defined in the annex to the Regulations and Rules, i.e. "specific products or services, e.g. training, servicing of meetings, reports, publications or advisory, editorial, translation and security services, which an activity is expected to produce in order to achieve its objectives". Some of these "products" are "measurable" in the sense that they can be identified in the programme budget with some precision and counted. The report on programme performance can then indicate, for instance, that in section X so many publications were programmed and implemented. Others of these "products and services", for example, advisory services, are more difficult to identify precisely in the programme budget and therefore less "measurable". Activities of the Organization also include those which do not generate "physical outputs" and are nevertheless mentioned in the programme budget because they are part of the functioning of the Organization and involves the use of resources. Examples of this type of activity are support to intergovernmental negotiations, good offices, the promotion of legal instruments, as well as coordination and consultation with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Currently, some of these activities are considered as "intermediary" while others are not captured in the programme performance report.

7. In the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 an attempt has been made to regroup all activities of the Organization within eight major categories. These are the following:

(a) International cooperation

(i) Settlement of disputes, special missions, good offices, fact-finding, emergency and humanitarian relief services, legal services;

(ii) Promotion of legal instruments;

(iii) Depository services;

(iv) General legal advice and services;

(v) External relations;

(b) Parliamentary services

(i) Parliamentary documentation;

(ii) Substantive services;

(iii) Technical secretariat services;

(iv) Ad hoc expert groups;

(c) Published material

(i) Recurrent publications;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications;

(iii) Technical material;

(d) Information material and services

Seven types of information materials have been indicated under this category;

(e) Operational activities

(i) Advisory services;

(ii) Group training, including seminars and workshops and fellowships;

(iii) Field projects;

(f) Coordination, harmonization and liaison

(g) Conference services

Six types of conference services have been identified under this category;

(h) Administrative support

This category includes six types of services.

8. The above list includes activities that are not "programmed" in the traditional sense. Subject to revisions, it should, however, provide a more comprehensive picture of the activities of the Organization than the current distinction between "outputs" and "intermediary activities". In order to have a comprehensive report to Member States on the level of implementation of all these diverse activities, it would seem that the idea of a single standardized format of the programme performance report is no longer workable. Four separate formats appear to be more adequate. Each would correspond to the following:

(a) First would be the reporting on "outputs" which are specifically indicated in the programme budget, such as reports and publications. These products account for a large part of the work programme of the Organization notably in the economic and social sectors. Form 1, given in the annex to the present report, indicates the format which could be adopted in the programme performance report.

(b) A second format would correspond to activities such as promotion of legal instruments or external relations, which are described in the programme budget in general terms and which are not part of the traditional definition of "outputs". Form 2 suggests how such activities would be reported.

(c) Operational activities, as defined in paragraph 7 (e) above, would be the subject of a third type of reporting, which is illustrated in Form 3.

(d) The fourth type of reporting would capture conference services and administrative support with relevant workload indicators. The breakdown of such services and support activities is provided in Form 4.

9. The second purpose of the monitoring exercise is to provide an analysis of the changes which occur during the implementation of the activities outlined in the programme budget as adopted by the General Assembly. Some outputs are postponed to the next biennium, others are added either by legislative decision or at the initiative of the Secretariat. The programme performance report for the biennium 1988-1989 illustrates the magnitude of such changes in the work programme of the Organization. While keeping most concepts currently in use (activities/outputs programmed, implemented, postponed, terminated and added), it is proposed to include in the monitoring report an analysis of the reasons for postponements, terminations and additions to the work programme. A format for such analysis is indicated in annex II.

10. An attempt could also be made to include in the programme performance report an indication of the work-months utilized during the biennium for each of the relevant eight categories of activities included in the programme budget. A distinction would be made between regular budget and extrabudgetary resources. This proposed addition to the programme performance report is indicated in the forms included in annexes I and II.

11. The approach outlined above would have two main advantages. First, the programme peformance report would reflect the diversity of the activities of the Organization. For some of these activities, it would be possible to indicate at the section level and globally a "rate of implementation", that is to say, number of reports produced as compared to number of reports programmed in the budget. For others, only qualitative indications would be provided. Secondly, the same report would include an analysis, still at the section level and for the programme budget as a whole, of the changes that affect the implementation of the work programme. In this regard, it will be necessary for the Secretariat to establish a closer link between the provision of statements of programme budget implications and the monitoring exercise. It should be emphasized, however, that the question of the quality of the outputs and services provided by the Organization in relation to its objectives would remain outside the scope of such monitoring of programme implementation. Also, there would still be a need for separate reports on programme performance and budget performance.

Notes

1/ ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987).

FORM 1

Activities quantified in the narrative of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Major activity/output	Programmed (1)	Implemented (2)	Postponed (3)	Terminated (4)	Added: Legislation (5)	Added: Secretariat (6)	Work-months utilized: RB (7)	Work-months utilized: XB (8)	Work-months utilized: Total (9)
Parliamentary services									
- Reports									
- Servicing of meetings									
- Background documents									
Published material									
- Recurrent publications									
- Non-recurrent publications									
- Technical material									
Information material and services									
- Booklets, fact sheets									
- Press releases									
- Exhibits and other visuals									
- Films and video tapes									
- Radio broadcasts, tapes of news									
- Guided tours and seminars									
- Special events									
Total									

Note: Definition of the terms used in Form 1:

(a) Programme activity (column 1). This column represents the frame of reference against which performance is reviewed. It groups all outputs specified in the narrative of the programme budget, including those financed from extrabudgetary resources.

(b) Implemented as programmes in (column 2). An output is considered implemented as programmed if it has been completed within the biennium in conformity with the description in the narrative of the programme budget.

(c) Postponed (column 3). An output is considered postponed if it is not delivered to the end users during the biennium, irrespective of its stage of implementation. A decision to postpone an output may be the result of considerations related to resources or logistics. Generally speaking, if resources are available, programme managers can exercise their authority to postpone an output, on the basis of programmatic consideration only, provided the output in question continues to be relevant during the next biennium.

(d) Terminated (column 4). The outputs terminated are those which could not be delivered during the biennium. Outputs are terminated either by legislative decision or at the discretion of programme managers as prescribed in rule 106.2 of the PPBME.

(e) Additional outputs (columns 5 and 6) refer to: (i) Outputs which are added by specific mandates subsequent to the approval by the General Assembly of the programme budget (column 5) (such additions are normally subject of a PBI); (ii) Outputs which are added at the initiative of the Secretariat in response to general legislation or other new developments (column 6).

(f) Work-months utilized (columns 7, 8 and 9) refer to professional work-months utilized during the biennium including consultants and other short-term expertise.

ANNEX 1

FORM 2

Activities not quantified in the narrative of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Major activity	Brief description of activities and its beneficiaries	Work-months utilized RB	XB	Total
International cooperation				
(a) Settlement of disputes				
(b) Promotion of legal instruments				
(c) Depository services				
(d) General advice and services				
(e) External relations				
Coordination, harmonization and liaison				

ANNEX 1

FORM 3

Operational activities

Advisory services

Programme/subprogramme (MTP)	(1) No. of requests received	(2) No. of requests implemented	(3) No. of missions	(4) Work-months available			(5) Work-months spent in field on advisory missions			(6) Work-months spent for preparation and follow-up work			Total (5) + (6)		
				RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total

Training Courses/Seminars/Workshops

	(1) Specific topics covered	(2) No. of participants/fellows	(3) Work-months advisory and other staff for substantive support		
			RB	XB	Total

Fellowships/grants

	(1) Number of fellowships awarded and Description	(2) Work-months utilized for substantive support		
		RB	XB	Total

Field projects a/

	(1) Number of projects programmed	(2) In progress as of January 92	(3) New to commence during 92-93	(4) Completed by December 93	(5) Work-months utilized for substantive support		
					RB	XB	Total

a/ A project is defined as in progress if the budget covering its activities, or its preparatory activities, has been approved. A project is defined as completed when all its programmed activities have been implemented.

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ANNEX I

FORM 4

Workload indicators relating to conference services and Administrative Support Units

Activities	Workload indicators	Work-months
CONFERENCE SERVICES		
- Editorial and official records services		
- Meeting, interpretation and verbatim reporting services		
- Translation services		
- Publishing services		
- Library services		
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT		
Administrative support and management		
- Administration of justice		
- Staff-management relations		
- Technological innovations policies		
Human resources management		
- Programme Planning and Information Systems		
- Recruitment, placement and career development		
- Staff administration		
- Training		
- Medical and employee assistance		
Programme planning, budget and finance		
- Financial management and control systems		
- Contributions services		
- Financial accounting and reporting		
- Treasury services		
- Programme planning, budgeting and monitoring		
- Financial services relating to peace-keeping matters		
- Evaluation and management advisory services		

/...

FORM 4 (continued)

General services

- Security and safety
- Electronic support services
- Communications
- Field operations support
- Procurement
- Transportation
- Facilities management and maintenance
- Construction
- Archives and records management

Audit services

ANNEX II

Activities/outputs postponed, terminated or added during the biennium

Framework for an analysis

Activity/output postponed	Reasons for postponement				Work-months utilized 4/	
	Lack of anticipated resources 1/	Programmatic considerations 2/	Logistical reasons 3/	Other	RB	XB

Activity/output terminated	Reasons for termination			Work-months utilized 7/	
	Programmatic considerations 5/	Lack of available resources 6/	Other	RB	XB

Activity/output added	Source		Reasons for addition			Work-months utilized	
	Legislative decision	Initiative of Secretariat	Replaced postponed or terminated output	Availability of additional resources	Other	RB	XB

1/ In case of high priority output, explanation would be provided as to why a redeployment of resources was not possible.

2/ Unforeseen development requiring the redeployment of the resources to other activities.

3/ Basically delay in printing and/or final processing of completed outputs.

4/ Applicable only in case work on output was initiated during biennium.

5/ Reasons could be duplication or lack of relevancy which makes the output obsolete or of marginal usefulness.

6/ Indication why the output could not be postponed, along with the reason for the shortfall in resources.

7/ Applicable only in case work on output was initiated during biennium.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 15 May 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 15 May 1991 from His Excellency Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to you (see annex).

I have further the honour to request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 29 and 68 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad E. ROSHAN-RAWAAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 15 May 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

Today, 15 May 1991, coincides with the third anniversary of the entering into force of the Geneva Agreements. Signed on 14 April 1988 by two independent States of equal rights, that is to say, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Agreements represent the fruits of continued United Nations endeavours, particularly Your Excellency's personal efforts as the Secretary-General of this prestigious world body, as well as the mutual understanding reached between two great Powers on the settlement of one of the most complex regional conflicts through political means.

In accordance with the spirit of the Fourth document, that is, the "Agreement on Interrelationships Concerning the Solution of the Situation Related to Afghanistan", and on the basis of the timetable agreed upon by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the phased withdrawal of Soviet troops commenced on 15 May 1988 and the last Soviet soldier was out of Afghanistan even before the agreed upon date of 15 February 1989. Thus, the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR completed in full their commitments in this regard two years and three months ago from today, a deed the appreciation of which was expressed by the international community, the United Nations, world public opinion and even by the other contracting side of the Agreements and their guarantor.

It is regrettable, however, on this third anniversary of the entering into force of the Geneva Agreements, to once again mention the fact that the Pakistani side has not honoured any of its commitments deriving from the Agreements. On the contrary, violating all principles of international law, it has expanded the dimensions of its interference and intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan to include the toppling down of State power in the country, the creation and the imposition on the people of Afghanistan of a regime of its own liking made in Pakistan and even the dismemberment and eradication of the independence of Afghanistan. Neglecting the "Bilateral Agreement on the Principles of Mutual Relations, Particularly on Non-interference and Non-intervention", Pakistan has not only continued to harbour and expand on its territory the military camps and depots of extremist Afghan opposition groups and to train, equip and dispatch such groups into the territory of Afghanistan and provide them with logistical support during their military operations, but by using its regular army, it has committed direct violent aggression on the territory of Afghanistan, including in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Kunar and most recently in Khost.

Instead of abiding by this Agreement, the spirit of which consists in the wish for "the normalization of the situation and the insurance of good-neighbourliness, as well as the strengthening of international peace and security in the region", and of resorting to finding solutions through

understanding and cooperation with the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, with which it had signed the Geneva Agreements, for removing difficulties, including the solution of problems related to the presence of Afghan refugees on the territory of Pakistan on the basis of the "Mutual Agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the voluntary return of refugees", Pakistan chose to create a so-called Shura and "the Interim Government of Afghan Mujahidin" under the supervision of the ISI (the Inter-Service Intelligence) and made every futile effort to export it by means of force into the territory of Afghanistan. Whereas, in accordance with the sixth article of the Agreement on Interrelationships "as from 15 May 1988, there will be no interference and intervention in any form in the affairs of the parties", because of the reckless violation of this Agreement by Pakistan and the encouragement by Pakistan, the fratricidal war has been for the last three years continuing in our country and thousands of innocent people, including women, children and the elderly, have been killed by those deadly weapons which have been put in the hands of the warmonger extremists in the territory of Pakistan.

Obviously, these deadly weapons, among them, long-range rockets, which during the course of the last three years since the conclusion of the Geneva Accords have been fired by extremists on cities and other residential areas, are not manufactured inside Afghanistan nor they are flown into Afghanistan through the atmosphere or via a territory of a third country.

The violation of the Geneva Agreements by Pakistan is so obvious and naked that it needs no further explanation. It would be enough to mention the 1,914 notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, in which 13,781 cases of violations by that country were brought to the attention of the Secretary-General through the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and, later on, of the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP).

The widespread Pakistani interference in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, particularly the participation of army and paramilitary forces and commandoes of that country in the campaign of the months of February and April of 1989, as well as during the months of February and April of the current year, compelled the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan to appeal to the United Nations and in April 1989 to the United Nations Security Council. During the meeting of the Security Council, Afghanistan, by providing the international community with the facts on the violation of the Geneva Agreements by Pakistan and on its aggression against the territory of Afghanistan, informed the international community of the repercussions of Pakistani recklessness towards internationally recognized norms. It also requested it to press Pakistan to respect the letter and spirit of the Geneva Agreements, under which it has the obligation to stop aggression, interference and intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan, and not to endanger further the peace and stability of the region.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, while fully and honestly fulfilling its obligations under the Geneva Agreements, and being compelled to defend the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country in the face of Pakistani military plots, has in the meantime, by seeking and launching a policy of peace and reconciliation between Afghans, endeavoured to take steps toward democratizing the political, economic and social life of the country. In order to pave the way for intra-Afghan dialogue and settling the disputes between the parties involved through negotiations, the Afghan Government has put forward numerous constructive, reasonable and flexible proposals.

Based on its peaceful foreign policy, of which the principle of friendship and cooperation among all the countries, above all, among the neighbouring countries, is the major element and, despite the pursuance of the aggressive and expansionist policy by Pakistan, the Republic of Afghanistan recently raised the idea of normalizing and improving relations with that country. Regrettably, the Government of Pakistan, as in the past, continues its violation of the Geneva Agreements and of the Charter of the United Nations. Attacking the city of Khost by the Pakistani armed, artillery and commando forces in the month of April is one of the recent instances of the policy of Pakistan vis-à-vis Afghanistan.

On the occasion of the third year of the entering into force of the Geneva Agreements, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, I should like to mention with appreciation the efforts and good offices of the Secretary-General towards finding a peaceful way of solving the Afghan problem, and once again appeal to and draw the attention of the world body and its Secretary-General to the urgent need of taking effective measures for the full implementation of the Geneva Agreements and for halting the continuation of the Pakistani interference and hostility vis-à-vis Afghanistan.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 14 May 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the text of the message from His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, on the occasion of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity, Africa Day, 25 May 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of the present letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 30 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) C. KATSIGAZI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Message from the President of Uganda and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on the occasion of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity

It is a great honour for me on behalf of the Government and the people of Uganda and on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to share with you this auspicious occasion when we remember 25 May as the day of the founding of the Organization of African Unity.

Twenty-eight years ago today, at Addis Ababa, 32 African Heads of State and Government placed their signatures on the Charter which established the Organization of African Unity. The main objective of setting up the Organization was to unite the African people and fight for the emancipation of the continent from the yoke of colonialism.

Today, we can proudly say that OAU has served Africa well through collective and sustained action to rid the continent of colonialism and to promote African unity and dignity. In coordination with our compatriots in the respective countries, as well as our sympathizers abroad, using armed struggle, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Namibia were liberated. South Africa is on the verge of democratization.

The unity of Africa is real and should be consolidated. We have tended to speak with one voice on virtually all issues affecting our continent. We should be proud of this because unity, even symbolic unity, is better than division.

The world around us is currently going through profound and fundamental changes of both a political and economic nature. In Europe, the perspectives of change will culminate in a single European Market in 1992. There are changes in super-Power relations that are having a big impact on global politics. Eastern Europe is no more. Indeed, even on our own continent there are important changes - in apartheid South Africa and in various African countries whose peoples are forging change in favour of democratic systems of governance. Africa will therefore of necessity have to adjust to these changes.

We enter the twenty-first century with an awfully fragile scientific and technological base at a time when the rest of the world is making astronomical advances. Those changes are bringing in their wake a new industrial revolution whose consequences for Africa are bound to be enormous.

In the face of all this, it is timely and pertinent that Africa should preoccupy herself with the question of what policies and strategies should be adopted to bring about development and how the continent will cope with the changes of the 1990s and beyond.

In this multi-faceted crisis, Africa's response should be critical and determined. Politically, Africa has got to create an enabling political environment that promotes the participation of the people in the process of government and development planning. This environment should guarantee human rights and the observance of the rule of law. It should also ensure high standards of accountability on the part of those in public office. This is very important because political freedom is a necessary catalyst to economic development.

It is for this reason that the issues of democratization and popular participation were seriously discussed by the last OAU summit in July 1990. On that occasion, African leaders adopted the Declaration of the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World. In that Declaration, we recommitted ourselves to the further democratization of the African societies and to the consolidation of democratic institutions in Africa in tandem with the deployment of increased efforts in economic development.

The ideal of freedom compels us to use this occasion to rededicate ourselves to the struggle against the obnoxious system of apartheid. Africa accepts that there have been positive changes in South Africa, notably the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, the unbanning of political organizations and, more recently, the announcement that the Land Acts, the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act would be repealed.

However, while we welcome the decision to repeal the pillars of apartheid, we should avoid the temptation to interpret it to mean that apartheid has been eliminated. The pillars of apartheid derive their authority from a more fundamental law - the South African Constitution. The Constitution of South Africa is therefore the foundation of apartheid and until that constitution is changed, apartheid cannot be said to have been eliminated.

It is because of this that OAU maintains the position that the international community should maintain international measures, including sanctions, against South Africa. For this to be effective Africa must summon the collective will to enforce sanctions if other countries are to follow suit. In this regard, I regret the action of the European Economic Community to lift sanctions against South Africa.

We call upon the liberation movements inside South Africa to intensify efforts to forge a united front against the Pretoria régime. We also call upon the South African Government to do all in its power to stop the black-on-black violence that has caused untold misery to the African people in that country.

Since the inception of OAU, political crises in Africa have hardly dissipated - in fact they have proliferated. Civil wars and inter-State disputes have raged on. In this regard, OAU and its regional groupings have

played a significant role by exerting efforts towards finding African solutions to African problems. I refer particularly to the significant and commendable role played by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in solving the Liberian civil war, to the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD) in the conflict-torn Horn of Africa, as well as in the Sudan and to the east and central regional leadership in the Rwanda conflict. OAU must endeavour to strengthen its mechanisms for conflict-resolution.

The civil wars in Liberia, Somalia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola and the Sudan, to mention but a few, are absolutely wasteful, both in life and property. In our present state, the economy of Africa cannot afford to divert her meagre resources from development purposes to war. Besides, these wars are the source of untold suffering to millions of our people as many of them get displaced and others are put to flight as refugees. Today one African migrant out of five is a refugee and one refugee out of every two in the world is an African. This is truly a sad state of affairs.

It is for this reason that we should, more than ever before, commit ourselves to removing the sources of conflict and to endeavour to solve these conflicts by peaceful means where they exist. I call upon all parties in the conflict areas to heed this call in the interest of Africa and her peoples.

The second response to Africa's crisis is to take a critical look at our socio-economic situation and devise realistic, if painful, measures to get us out of this crisis and to propel ourselves into the modern era of technology and development.

Today, almost all African Governments are entirely preoccupied by crisis management. Nearly 30 years ago when we were getting independence, there was great optimism that the continent could and would effectively mobilize its vast resources to meet the needs of its people. By the mid-1980s, this optimism had given way to disillusion as Africa slid deeper and deeper into the mire of economic decay.

Today, Africa remains the poorest and least-developed continent in the world. Out of 41 least-developed countries in the world, Africa has the largest number - 28. Food importation is on the increase. Infant mortality is a staggering 120 out of 1,000 children born alive. Sixty-five per cent of adults can neither read nor write and a mere 23 per cent of Africans have access to clean drinking water. Industrial capacity goes underutilized, unemployment is rampant and per capita incomes have steadily declined.

This is compounded by decline in economic performance resulting from:

(a) An escalating and excruciating debt and debt-service burden;

(b) Reliance on production of raw materials whose prices are constantly falling or fluctuating;

(c) Worsening terms of trade;

(d) Protectionism in Western Europe, North America and Japan;

(e) Lack of a sound technological base;

(f) An increasingly hostile international economic environment;

(g) A fragmented African market, in spite of our efforts at creating regional markets.

Africa has attempted to redress the problem by adopting:

(a) The Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos (1980);

(b) Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (APPER);

(c) Africa's common position on Africa's debt crisis (1987).

However, Africa's economic crisis should not be seen solely in the context of macro-economic policies. The problems are rooted in the economic distortions of Africa's production and consumption patterns inherited from the colonial past. We continue to produce what we do not consume and consume what we do not produce. This is a fundamental distortion which cannot be solved by demand-focused macro-economic policies alone.

We see a major part of the solution to the African economic crisis as lying in economic integration. The Final Act of Lagos, which was adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in 1980, called for the establishment of an African Economic Community through a treaty. After years of deliberation by African Ministers, the Treaty is now ready for adoption and signature. I have every hope that the African Heads of State and Government will sign this Treaty at their next meeting at Abuja, Nigeria.

The importance of establishing the African Economic Community cannot be over-emphasized. It is the most critical issue of our time, with far-reaching socio-economic and political implications for our countries, individually and collectively. Indeed, it can be said to be the most sterling achievement of our Organization since its inception nearly three decades ago.

Two years hence, OAU will be 30 years of age. These have been years of change and turmoil everywhere. Our own unvarying concerns have been two-fold: to safeguard our unity and independence and to overcome the blight of poverty. Today we rededicate ourselves to this noble mission.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Items 29 and 68 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 15 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in connection with the third anniversary of the entry into force of the Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan.

I request you to have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 29 and 68 of the preliminary list, and also of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in connection with the third anniversary of the entry into force of the Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan

Three years ago, on 15 May, the return home of the Soviet military contingent from Afghanistan began in accordance with the Geneva Agreements. The withdrawal of Soviet troops, which was carried out exactly according to schedule and within the dates set, once again demonstrated the Soviet Union's conscientious and honest attitude with regard to the obligations that it has undertaken and its respect for international documents which it has signed.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan also acted in a similar way, not only strictly and unswervingly observing the articles and provisions of the agreement on non-interference signed with Pakistan, but also creating all the necessary conditions for ensuring the return of Afghan refugees to the country. All this was supplemented with flexible and constructive proposals designed to bring about national reconciliation and a political settlement of the problem in Afghanistan, which were put forward by both the Afghan leaders and the Soviet side as the guarantor of the Geneva Agreements. This created the necessary conditions for halting the fratricidal war and establishing peace in the long-suffering land of Afghanistan, which became feasible after April 1988, that is, after the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements.

Unfortunately, these agreements and the subsequent concrete, purposeful steps taken by Kabul and Moscow could not put an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan, mainly because of the obstructionist policy of those forces which became involved in the Afghan conflict, first of all Pakistan. Although the withdrawal of Soviet troops was completed long ago, interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the rendering of broad assistance to the armed Afghan opposition from the territory of Pakistan have not only not ceased, but are even tending to increase. The recent events connected with Khost, during which the Pakistani armed forces provided direct military support to the Afghan "Mujahidin", are an example of this.

In the time since the completion of the return home of the Soviet troops, much has been done through the active efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan, the USSR, Iran and the United States with considerable assistance from the United Nations in order to achieve a political settlement in Afghanistan; and, in particular, an international consensus has begun to emerge with regard to the basic principles for such a settlement. The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan believe that any settlement, which can be achieved only by the Afghans themselves, through an intra-Afghan dialogue, must be based on the rejection of the use of force, a reasonable and just compromise, consideration of the real situation and a balance of the interests of the opposing sides. The lack of an alternative to a political settlement is today in fact recognized by all, except the most extremist-minded faction of the "Peshawar

Seven", which is becoming increasingly isolated from the clear-thinking faction of the Afghan political opposition.

In the situation that has come about, a sober approach free of all anger is more than ever necessary with regard to the Afghan problem. A double standard here is not only out of place, but also detrimental because it can only stall the positive progress which has recently been made in the course of contacts with various sides on the Afghan problem and impede a qualitative breakthrough towards an Afghan settlement. Such a breakthrough is completely possible provided that the Afghan opposition and those who support it renounce the imposition of ultimatums on the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan to withdraw from the political arena, which are combined with methods of exerting pressure through force.

Much in this regard depends on the countries which are supporting the opposition and whose views it must take into consideration. If they were able to induce the members of the opposition to halt the escalation of military activities and undertake a peaceful dialogue with the opposite side, the process to bring about a settlement would begin. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it will be prepared also in the future, in cooperation with the Afghan side, to do everything to ensure that a settlement is really brought about.

We hold sacred the memory of the soldiers and officers who were killed in the land of Afghanistan. The USSR Ministry for Foreign Affairs, together with other Soviet agencies, is making every effort to clear up the fate of the Soviet servicemen who are missing in Afghanistan and bring about the release from captivity of those who fell into the hands of the Afghan armed opposition. Their fate is a matter of profound concern for all Soviet people. We would like to hope that the entire world community will provide support and assistance in solving this humanitarian problem.

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16 May 1991

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Forty-sixth session
Item 37 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 13 May 1991 from the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to transmit herewith for your attention the attached Los Angeles Statement, which was adopted at the Symposium on Cultural and Academic Links with South Africa, held on 12 May 1991 at Los Angeles, California.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and the attached Statement could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 37 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jai Pratap RANA
Acting Chairman
Special Committee against Apartheid

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

The Los Angeles Statement

Three years after the First Symposium on Culture against Apartheid held in Athens, artists and intellectuals from South Africa and around the world met in Los Angeles, in May 1991, under the sponsorship of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid to review the policy of cultural and academic links with South Africa within the context of recent developments in that country.

We, the participants, recognize that since the Symposium in Athens, certain steps have been taken towards the eradication of apartheid. However, we note that the South African authorities have not fully met the demands put forward by the United Nations consensus Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa to create a climate conducive to negotiations. Nor are they addressing the legacy of institutionalized racism and apartheid in spite of their declared intent to repeal apartheid legislation.

We express grave concern at the unprecedented escalation of violence. While efforts are being made by liberation movements, churches and other groups to address the issue of violence, the authorities, until now, have been unwilling to put an end to the violence decisively and impartially despite all the resources at their disposal. In this regard, the participants reject the concept that, in this charged atmosphere, weapons of any kind can be considered as "traditional" or "cultural" necessities.

We feel that continued efforts are required to disseminate information in order to counter the misconception that apartheid is already eliminated. In this regard, we believe that in this crucial period of the struggle, pressure should be fully maintained until a non-racial and democratic constitution is established and that assistance should be provided to anti-apartheid structures in conformity with the United Nations Declaration and subsequent resolutions.

We reaffirm the policy of the cultural boycott which was established in Athens and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly which called on Governments, organizations and individuals not to entertain any cultural or academic links with South Africa unless any particular activity in these fields have the intent and effect of opposing apartheid and giving appropriate assistance to the anti-apartheid structures and to the disadvantaged sectors of the South African society.

We welcome the initiatives taken towards the formation of an umbrella non-partisan cultural body and urge its early establishment in order to facilitate consultations between the international community of artists and intellectuals and that body in fulfilment of the above-mentioned policy.

The academic links with South Africa should have as a primary goal the need to redress the disastrous imbalances in education created by apartheid. In the context of the overall policy, the free flow to South Africa of publications, music, films and other art forms and material should be encouraged only to the extent that they contribute to the building of a non-racial culture of democratic and humanistic values.

Writers and artists from abroad should be encouraged to assist in fund-raising in favour of non-racial organizations in South Africa or help in the training of South African artists and in supporting relevant community programmes.

Those artists, intellectuals and entertainers who have made over the years an immense contribution to the struggle against apartheid should be fittingly acknowledged.

We call upon Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, educational institutions and individuals to desist from establishing cultural and academic links and exchanges with the apartheid institutions in South Africa.

We call upon the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid to adopt the policy recommended by the Symposium and to monitor its implementation, in consultation with the non-partisan cultural body in South Africa.

We reaffirm our commitment and continued support for the struggle waged by the South African people to establish a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 16 May 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 16 May 1991 from His Excellency Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to you (see annex).

I have further the honour to request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 29 and 68 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad E. ROSHAN-RAWAAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 16 May 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

In pursuit of my previous letters addressed to you and in reference to the fruitful meeting that I recently held with you in New York, I should like to draw your attention to yet another clear instance of the warmongering policy of the Pakistani militarist authorities, the purpose of which is to prolong the bloodshed, to deteriorate further the situation in our country and to hinder the process of political settlement of the Afghan question.

According to authentic information, several Pakistani commandos dressed in Afghan clothes, along with the Pakistani tank and artillery forces and with the collaboration of the extremist groups of the Afghan opposition stationed in that country, entered into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan in Kandahar province and conducted armed activities.

The adventurous deeds of Pakistan, particularly the recent aggression on the Afghan territory by military forces of that country, proves the fact that the statements made by some Pakistani authorities on cooperating in the expeditious settlement of the Afghan problem is nothing but empty words. Indeed, Pakistani militarist and adventurist authorities pursue their plans aimed at keeping the situation tense.

Pakistan has not only ignored, from the very first days of the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements, as well as the Declaration on the Relation between States of 24 October 1970 and the Declaration on the Unlawfulness of Interference in the Internal Affairs of Other States of 9 December 1981, but it has, on many occasions, undertaken aggression against the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

Since we are now observing the signs of aggression by Pakistani militarists against the ancient province of Kandahar, I wish once again to draw your attention to the dangerous consequences of this aggression, which not only takes the lives of innocent people and causes further destruction of our war-torn country, but also gravely endangers peace and security in the region.

I request you to utilize your prestige and possibilities to draw Pakistan's attention to its commitments arising from the Geneva Agreements, the resolutions of the forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and thus prevent the Pakistani interference and intervention in the affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

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Forty-sixth session
Item 30 of the preliminary list*
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 16 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the statement issued by the Government of Ghana on 10 May 1991 on the report of the National Commission for Democracy, entitled "Evolving a True Democracy" (see annex), and to request you to circulate it as an official document of the General Assembly under item 30 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi N. AWOONOR
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Government of Ghana, on 10 May 1991, on the report of the National Commission for Democracy, entitled "Evolving a True Democracy"

1. On 25 March 1991, the National Commission for Democracy presented to the Government its report entitled "Evolving a True Democracy".

2. The report summarizes the work of the National Commission for Democracy as the body set up in 1982 to perform the dual functions of an electoral commission and also to assist in developing a programme for a more effective realization of democracy in Ghana. The National Commission for Democracy also played a major part in the establishment of district assemblies and their sub-structures as the institutional framework for decentralized administration and development, and has been providing a framework for increased and effective civic and political education.

3. The consultative processes engaged in by the National Commission for Democracy climaxed by the regional seminars on "District Assemblies and the evolving democratic process" led to the articulation by Ghanaians of all walks of life of their major concerns for the future governance of the country. These concerns are enumerated in the chapter of the National Commission for Democracy report on "Main issues for consideration by the Consultative Assembly".

4. The main issues include human rights, particularly workers' rights, women's rights, children's rights, and the rights of the handicapped. They also include the basic freedoms of speech, of conscience, of assembly and association, freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention and from invasion of privacy.

5. The report of the National Commission for Democracy addressed issues of representation and the need for ensuring that language is not a barrier to genuine popular participation in government.

6. Accountability and responsibility are both stressed in the report, the former by insisting that a code of conduct for high office holders be included in the next constitution, and the latter by suggesting that aspiring office holders must have fulfilled all their tax obligations, and also that specific constitutional duties be imposed on national assemblymen and high political office holders.

7. The report noted that Ghanaians see the existence of political parties as an expression of the fundamental freedom of association, but that the operation of future political parties should be shorn of the excesses and iniquities of the past. It is proposed that provision be made in the constitution to guard against such abuses.

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8. A wide-ranging set of issues are put on the agenda for the Consultative Assembly by the National Commission for Democracy, including also the nature, functions and power of the various organs of State, such as the National Assembly, the Executive, the Judiciary and the Security Agencies, and a re-examination of our citizenship laws. A strengthened Ombudsman as a more functional agency in the redress of executive and administrative excesses and of maladministration at both national and district levels is discussed.

9. The report of the National Commission for Democracy further identifies positive achievements already made in the area of participatory democracy, but which require to be constitutionally underwritten in the new framework of national administration. These include participatory democracy at the local level, represented by the district assemblies and their sub-structures, decentralized administration for development, revenue-sharing between central government and local authorities, accountability of candidates and elected officials to their electorate both before and after elections, with the possibility of recall in case of default, as well as a framework for monitoring and assessing the performance of elected officials.

10. The government has studied the report and accepts the various views expressed as the embodiment of the aspirations of Ghanaians on the future constitutional order, and will accordingly submit the report to the Consultative Assembly as one of the major source documents for its deliberations.

11. The government will formulate constitutional proposals to be placed before the Consultative Assembly, which will reflect the concerns that have been articulated in the report. Accordingly, the government has decided to set up a Committee made up of constitutional experts which will begin to formulate these proposals. The Committee will be under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. K. B. Asante, a former Solicitor-General and currently a Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations. The services of the Committee will also be available to the Consultative Assembly.

12. The constitutional proposals will make provision for freedom of association, including the formation of political parties. There will also be provision for independent candidates. Although during the consultative processes of the National Commission for Democracy there was a substantial body of opinion expressing concern about the past conduct of political parties, the report of the National Commission for Democracy points the way to making constitutional provisions to guard against such abuse. Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of all Ghanaians to ensure the proper functioning of any institutions that are provided for under the constitution.

13. The constitutional proposals will make provision for an Executive President to be elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage. Provision will also be made for a Prime Minister who must command a majority in the National Assembly. Elections to the National Assembly will also be on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

14. As the need for national consensus on critical national issues has been highlighted by the report of the National Commission for Democracy, the proposals will embody forms of cooperation between political parties, National Assembly members and other institutions to define in an ongoing manner the areas of consensus on which partisan considerations can be muted in the supreme interest of the nation.

15. In this regard, the proposals will provide for certain institutions and constitutional functions to remain above partisan politics. Such institutions and functions must include the judiciary and the military. The proposals will also make provision for other areas of non-partisanship, in which persons will serve without reference to party affiliation. Such institutions can provide a context in which chiefs, elder statesmen, military personnel, etc. can contribute their views to deliberations on national affairs in a manner that transcends partisan consideration. The exact form of such institutions will require detailed consideration in the Consultative Assembly.

16. The report of the National Commission for Democracy indicates consensus that District Assembly elections continue to be held on a non-party basis, with candidates standing on their individual merit and not under the sponsorship of a political party. The constitutional proposals will reflect this consensus and will clarify the relationship between the functions of the District Assembly and the National Assembly.

17. The constitutional proposals will also reflect the following:

(a) A commitment to fundamental human rights and basic freedom, including workers' and trade union rights, women's rights, including the rights of widows provided for in the interstate succession law. Children's rights, especially against child abuse, the rights of the handicapped and disadvantaged minorities, freedom of speech, freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention and from invasion of privacy, and freedom of assembly and association. In addition, there should be a mechanism in the constitution for the enforcement and protection of these fundamental liberties;

(b) Constitutional guarantees of the legal-aid system, and the office of the Ombudsman;

(c) A free independent and incorruptible judiciary;

(d) The freedom and independence of the media;

(e) A decentralized system of national administration, based on a virile local-government system, with development as its objectives and including revenue-sharing clauses;

(f) A commitment to equal and balanced development in the allocation of national resources and in the distribution of the national wealth.

18. The report of the National Commission for Democracy touched briefly on the importance of the economic foundations for evolving a true democracy. It is perhaps unfortunate that the report considered the issue of the economy as not strictly within the mandate of the Commission and therefore did not elaborate on this. There is no doubt that the continued improvement of the national economy is a necessity for ensuring the stability of the new constitutional order. There can also be no doubt that the modest but important gains that have been made in the economy would need to be consolidated and the directions of the economic recovery programme continued in order to enable further improvements to be made in the lives of ordinary people. Accordingly, as has been exemplified many times in many Western democracies, in times of national crisis and transition, a national consensus must be developed regarding the direction of economic growth. This will ensure that Ghana continues to receive the much needed assistance from the international community in the pursuit of our national reconstruction. Accordingly, the pertinent issues relating to the national economy and measures to sustain and enhance it will be placed before the Consultative Assembly for deliberation.

19. A law establishing the Consultative Assembly will be published next week and the Consultative Assembly will begin its deliberations in July this year.

20. The Consultative Assembly will be composed of elected representatives of district assemblies, identifiable bodies and appointed persons in accordance with previous practice in 1968 and 1978.

21. In accordance with such practice, the government recognizes that the process of constitutional deliberation should be non-partisan and, therefore, the ban on political parties will remain for the time being.

22. The draft constitution will be submitted to the people of Ghana for their approval in a national referendum.

23. As part of the arrangements towards the new constitutional order and in the light of the recommendations made in the report of the National Commission for Democracy, the Government will take steps to reorganize and reconstitute the Commission in order to enable it to discharge fully its electoral as well as its civic education functions.

24. The success of our democratic processes will depend on the mature conduct of all Ghanaians. To establish a solid basis for constitutional democracy that can stand the test of time we must all take lessons from the past and work in the national interest to achieve our national aspirations.

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Item 35 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

At a time when Lebanon is beginning to recover from the bloody events and the destructive wars which lasted more than 15 years, and while the Government of national entente continues to spare no effort to extend its legal authority throughout Lebanese territory - in this way the militias have just been disarmed and the army has been deployed in extensive areas of Lebanon, Israel is carrying out large-scale military manoeuvres in the eastern sector of the occupied Lebanese territory known as the "frontier strip", and is doing so with the participation of troops from the "Army of Southern Lebanon", which Israel created and uses in the areas under its occupation.

Yesterday, Israel deployed more than 40 tanks, 4,000 soldiers and heavy artillery batteries (155 mm) in order to carry out these manoeuvres, confirming once again its obstinate intention to continue its policy of aggression against Lebanon and occupy part of Lebanese territory.

Under current conditions, such schemes constitute unjustified provocation and blatant interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon aimed at impeding the rescue operation under way and thwarting the efforts by the Lebanese Government to implement the Taif Agreement on national conciliation and extending the authority of the State throughout the national territory.

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* A/46/50.

Israel is thus attempting to block the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

In drawing attention to the aggressive and repeated acts by Israel, the Lebanese Government reaffirms that the Secretariat and the international community must continue their efforts to induce Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and put an end to the totally abnormal situation in Southern Lebanon, which threatens peace and stability in Lebanon and in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Forty-sixth session
Item 35 of the preliminary list**
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 May 199. from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

At a time when Lebanon is beginning to recover from the bloody events and the destructive wars which lasted more than 15 years, and while the Government of national reconciliation is sparing no effort to extend its legitimate authority throughout Lebanese territory - as the militias have just been disarmed and the army has been deployed in extensive areas of Lebanon - Israel is carrying out large-scale military manoeuvres in the eastern sector of the occupied Lebanese territory known as the "buffer zone", in conjunction with troops from the so-called "South Lebanon Army", created and used by Israel in the areas under its occupation.

Yesterday, Israel deployed more than 40 tanks, 4,000 soldiers and heavy artillery batteries (155 mm) in order to carry out these manoeuvres, confirming once again its determination to continue its policy of aggression against Lebanon and occupy part of Lebanese territory.

In the current circumstances, such Israeli operations constitute an unjustified provocation and a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon aimed at impeding the ongoing process of national salvation and

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/46/50.

thwarting the efforts by the Lebanese Government to implement the Taif Agreement on national reconciliation and to extend the authority of the State throughout the national territory. In particular, such operations aim at preventing the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

In drawing attention to the aggressive and repeated acts by Israel, the Lebanese Government reaffirms the need for the Secretariat and the international community to continue their efforts to induce Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and put an end to the totally abnormal situation prevailing in southern Lebanon, which threatens peace and stability in Lebanon and in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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20 May 1991
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Forty-sixth session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 20 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to inform you that Israel has again forcibly expelled Palestinians to Lebanese territory in an illegal manner across the international frontier, using for that purpose the so-called "security zone" it occupies in southern Lebanon in order to implement its aggressive policy.

On Saturday afternoon, 18 May 1991, an Israeli military helicopter transported four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza strip to the so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon, whence they were taken in two civilian cars to the Lebanese army checkpoint at Marj el-Zouhour in the southern Bekaa Valley. The names and ages of the expelled Palestinians are: Jamal Yassine (33), Mouin Mohamad Moussallem (31), Hashem Dahlan (31) and Jamal A. Abou Jdayan (33).

The Lebanese Government vigorously condemns the Israeli policy of expelling and deporting Palestinians, which is contrary to article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the forcible deportation of civilians from occupied territory, and reiterates its objection to the violation by Israel of Lebanese sovereignty and territory by its practices which are counter to the Charter of the United Nations and the laws of human rights, and in particular, Security Council resolutions 607 (1988), 608 (1988), 636 (1989) and 641 (1989).

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* A/46/50.

Furthermore, the Lebanese Government is concerned to draw the attention of the international community to the fact that, at a time when it is endeavouring to extend its authority to all its territory by applying the document of national conciliation, Israel is doing its utmost to obstruct the progress of salvation within Lebanon through its aggressive acts and its illegal practices. This makes it necessary to redouble efforts to enforce Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which calls upon Israel to withdraw and the Lebanese Government to extend its authority to its international boundaries.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Item 35 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 21 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I hereby inform you of the most recent acts of aggression by Israel against Lebanese territory.

At 3.30 p.m. on Friday, 17 May 1991, two Israeli military aircraft raided the hills of Shabriha, north-east of the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon, using smart bombs, and causing a number of deaths and injuries among the civilian population, and extensive material damage to buildings and property.

On the same day, the towns of Haddatha, Baraasheet and Tebnin were shelled by the Israeli occupation forces and their proxies in a manner which was aimed specifically at crowds and disrupted the daily life of the public.

The Lebanese Government, while deploring and condemning these aggressions against Lebanon and its citizens, considers them a proof of the persistence of Israel in carrying out its role of destruction and disruption of the process of national reconciliation that the Lebanese Government has been pursuing with a view to extending its authority over all Lebanese territory, and in particular to implementing Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which requires the withdrawal of Israel from all Lebanese territory.

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* A/46/50.

The latest Israeli acts of aggression underscore once again the urgent need for action by the United Nations to implement resolution 425 (1978) in order to secure stability and security in Lebanon and to put an end to the explosive situation in the south.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

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Forty-sixth session
Item 99 of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 20 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the French and English texts of the statement on Western Sahara issued by the Community and its member States on 17 May 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 99 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jean FEYDER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Western Sahara

The Community and its Member States welcome the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 690 (1991) approving the report of the Secretary-General on the referendum to be held concerning the self-determination of the Saharan people. They believe this represents an important step towards a just and lasting settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara.

They also confirm their firm support for the Secretary-General's efforts to implement the final stages of his plan.

UNITED NATIONS

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Items 93, 94 and 99 of the preliminary list*
ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
First regular session of 1991

Note verbale dated 21 May 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith (see annex), the comments by the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia concerning the note verbale dated 6 May 1991 from the Republic of Albania and its annex (A/46/166-E/1991/71).

It would be appreciated if you could have the text of the present note verbale and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 93, 94 and 99 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Comments by the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia concerning the note verbale dated 6 May 1991 from the Republic of Albania

In connection with the note verbale of the Republic of Albania of 6 May 1991 and its annex (A/46/166-E/1991/71), the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia would like to make the following comments.

The positions presented in the resolution passed by the People's Assembly of Albania have been based on twisted facts and the demands put forward run contrary to the accepted international standards and documents.

In the resolution in question, the members of the Albanian ethnical group are treated as a nation instead of as a national minority, which would be in line with both the Federal Constitution and the constitutions of the Yugoslav Republics, as well as with the principles of international law, the provisions of peace treaties, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other relevant international instruments, particularly the documents of the Second meeting on human dimension of the CSCE, held at Copenhagen. In addition, the figure of 3,000,000 ethnic Albanians living in Yugoslavia is incorrect. According to the last 1981 Yugoslav census, the number of the members of the Albanian minority in the whole of Yugoslavia totalled 1,730,364. It is difficult to determine with accuracy their total number today, since, following the instructions of their leaders, ethnic Albanians in Kosovo did not take part in the recent Yugoslav census. However, according to the estimates of the Federal Bureau for Statistics, there is, at the most 1,650,000 Yugoslav citizens of Albanian nationality living today in Kosovo. Failing to take part in the official census, the members of the Albanian national minority violated their national obligation and Yugoslavia's international commitment to the United Nations.

The resolution condemns the Republic of Serbia for having invaded Kosovo, populated by Albanian people. It goes on to say that the Albanian people has been "divided in half through the dictate of the old diplomacy". After the Balkan liberation wars in 1912, which brought the Ottoman occupation of the Balkan peninsula to an end, Kosovo became an integral part of Serbia, which was confirmed by the international peace treaty signed in London in 1913. It is absurd to state that a country invaded a part of its own territory. The other allegation, which implies a purported injustice and consequently the disputability of internationally recognized borders between Yugoslavia and Albania, runs contrary to international legal order and represents a threat to Yugoslavia's territorial integrity.

The Albanians in Yugoslavia, particularly in Serbia, enjoy all fundamental rights. Under the Constitution of Serbia its citizens are not discriminated against on ethnical or other grounds and they enjoy equal

rights, including being part of the sovereignty of the Republic of Serbia (article 2 of the Constitution).

Ethnic Albanians, as a nationality, are in addition granted specific rights: the right to instruction in their language (article 32 of the Constitution); the right to conduct religious services, to set up religious schools and financial assistance to religious communities (article 41); the right to express their national identity and culture and use their own language and alphabet (article 49); and the right to their language in proceedings before State authorities. Furthermore, the Albanians in Serbia have their territorial autonomous province. The official language in the territories where ethnic Albanians are in a majority is Albanian (article 8 of the Constitution). Not only are the Albanians equal in their rights with the Serbs in Serbia, but they enjoy even more rights than modern States grant to their minorities (administrative autonomy, Academy of Sciences, Universities, public and cultural institutions and the like).

The resolution denies Yugoslavia's right to determine administrative local borders inside its own territory. That act is termed as genocide against the Albanian minority. This is an extremely odd position in contemporary political developments, and an incomprehensible and unacceptable attitude concerning the internal affairs of a neighbouring country. It is a pronounced example of interference in affairs exclusively under Yugoslavia's internal jurisdiction.

The resolution pledges support to the so-called Declaration on Independence of Kosovo, of 2 July 1990, whereby the leadership of the separatist movement in the province attempted to separate Kosovo unlawfully from the Republic of Serbia. This illegal act of separatism is contrary to articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution of Yugoslavia, articles 4 and 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, and the Final Act of Helsinki, principles I, III, IV, VII, paragraph 4, and VIII, as well as to the document of the Second meeting of the Conference on the human dimension of the CSCE, article 37. By rendering its unreserved support to this declaration and by making this unlawful act its own and presenting it as an essential part of Albania's official policy towards Yugoslavia, the Republic of Albania challenges Yugoslavia's sovereignty over its territory as a whole, and does not recognize its territorial integrity and borders.

The resolution urges that the Albanian national minority in Yugoslavia be granted the status of a nation with all the rights inherent thereof under the Yugoslav Constitution. Consequently, that would include the right to secession of the territory populated by ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia. Invoking the right to secession of the Albanian national minority is in flagrant violation of the preambular part of the Constitution of Yugoslavia and articles 4 and 6 of the Constitution of Serbia. By doing so, Albania is attempting to impose the constitutional norms on a country where its minority lives. This is in violation of international law regulating relations among States; it also encourages the members of the Albanian minority in Serbia not

to be loyal to their own State, Serbia and Yugoslavia, and directly jeopardizes good-neighbourly relations, stability and peace in the region.

Albania took the right to declare its minority in another country, a nation entitled to self-determination, including the right to secession from the country in which it lives. Such a policy is unacceptable and completely contrary to all norms and principles of international law, including those concerning minorities and their rights in the countries where they live. That opens a serious question for all States Members of the United Nations that have national minorities, for all participating countries of the CSCE that attach particular attention to this issue, and poses a threat to stability, peace and security.

While advocating the right to self-determination for its minority, and, in this particular case, the right to secession, in its own country Albania does not respect the rights of national minorities. It does not recognize the existence of the Montenegrin and Serbian minority and underestimates the number of ethnic Macedonians. Until recent reforms, non-Albanian personal names were prohibited by law and all members of Yugoslav minorities had their names changed against their will. The names of places and geographical locations of Slavic origin have also been changed. Religious services were not allowed. The right to instruction in their own language has been and still is denied, except for the Macedonian minority up to elementary school level. Magazines or other activities for the preservation of the national, cultural and other heritage of national minorities are also denied. Until recently, the Albanian authorities prevented all contacts even among closest relatives on two sides of the Yugoslav-Albanian border.

Having repeatedly pointed out over a number of years that the Yugoslav minorities are stripped of their rights, the Yugoslav Government presented to the Albanian Government a Promemoria in which it stated, in a positive and constructive manner, that it was necessary to resolve this important issue affecting our relations and expressed Yugoslavia's interest that the conditions for the development and improvement of the overall position of Yugoslav minorities in Albania be created. Out of the 100,000 members of the Yugoslav minorities living in Albania, the majority of them are Macedonians, followed by Serbs and Montenegrins.

Since they have been completely deprived of their rights in Albania, there has been a mass exodus of Yugoslav minorities recently from Albania to Yugoslavia, which indicates that the process of democratization of Albanian society has not opened perspectives for the improvement of the position of national minorities in line with contemporary developments and international norms.